[4th May 1962]

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : தலைவர் அவர்களே, வீதியில் திரிகிற நாய்களைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு போக கார்ப்பரேஷன் வான் இருக்கிறது. காலை 7 மணியிலிருந்து 12 மணி வரையிலும் மாலை 3 மணியிலிருந்து 5 மணி வரையிலும் அந்த நாய்களைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள்.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by he Member.**]

II—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have received the following message from the Governor of Madras :—

'I have received with great satisfaction your resolution of thanks for the address with which I opened the present Session of the Legislature'.

(2) MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to announce to the House that I have received a message from the Hon. Speaker, Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Amendment Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, on the 4th May 1962, for the concurrence of the Council.

III.—GOVERNMENTBU.

DISCUSSION ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1962–63 AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1961–62 OF THE MADRAS STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I beg to initiate discussion on the Annual Financial Statement for 1962–63 and the Supplementary Financial Statement for 1961–62 of the Madras State Electricity Board laid on the table of this House.

As required under section 61 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the Madras State Electricity Board after obtaining the approval of the Madras State Electricity Consultative Council constituted by the Government under section 16 of the said Act, submitted to the Government, the Annual Financial Statement for 1962–63 and the Supplementary Financial Statement for 1961–62 in February 1962. The Annual and Supplementary Financial Statements are open to discussion in the State Legislature but are not subject to vote. The Board will however take into consideration any comments made on the statements in the State Legislature as has been done in the past years.

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Until 1928, power development in Madras State was confined to a few licensees and to certain consumers, who generated electricity required for their own consumption. With the formation of the Government Electricity Department in 1928, the State Government actively associated themselves with the power development in the State. The Government Electricity Department had been responsible for planning and executing in a systematic and rational way, major hydro-electric schemes in the State, which set the pattern for the future development of power in the State. The department also built up a well-trained technical and administrative organisation, which has proved its worth subsequently in undertaking immense respossibilities in executing successfully the power development schemes under the First and Second Five-Year Plans. In 1948, the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, a Central Act was enacted. It provides among other things for the formation of State Electricity Boards by the State Governments to be in charge of the general duty of promoting the co-ordinated development of the generation, supply and distribution of electricity in the States in the most efficient and economical manner with particular reference to such development in areas not for the time being served or adequately served by any licensee. Madras had therefore to fall in line with the other States to comply with the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, and the Madras State Electricity Board was accordingly formed with effect from 1st July 1957. From that date, the Board took over almost the entire organisation, assets and liabilities of the former Government Electricity Department and has been the agency in charge of implementation of power development programmes under the Five-Year Plans. The Board is thus functioning with the framework of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, and is subject to the control of the State Government in regard to matters of policy, and certain financial matters.

As at present constituted, the Madras State Electricity Board consists of five Members including the Chairman. The Madras State Electricity Consultative Council constituted by the Government under section 16 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, which also includes non-officials representing various interests is being consulted by the Board from time to time on important questions of policy, major schemes, financial issues, etc.

The entire capital outay as on the date of formation of the Board amounting to about Rs. 71 crores has been treated as a loan advanced to the Board under section 60 (2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act and bears an interest of 5¼ per cent per annum. The major portion of the capital outlay of the Board on power schemes since its formation is being met by the Government by way of loans bearing interest at the same rate of 5¼ per cent. During the past five years the Government have given loans to the Board amounting to Rs. 47·84 crores. During 1962–63 it is

expected that the Board will require a loan of Rs. 11·50 crores from the Government for financing its capital programme. The continuance of booking of the transactions of the Board in the Government Accounts under a deposit head is mutually helpful to the Board and the Government in maintaining a sound ways and means position. The Board is however contemplating to take over shortly the accounting functions now performed by the Accountant-General. As a first step in this direction, an Accounts Wing has been formed in the Board's Secretariat and it has already taken over the functions hitherto performed by the Pay and Accounts Officer, Madras, in respect of the Board.

The hon. Members can have an idea of the various provisions made in the Annual Financial Statement for 1962–63 and the programme set by the Board for 1962–63 from the Introductory Note to the Annual Financial Statement for 1962–63. They can also see the huge volume of transactions undertaken by the Board both under Capital and Revenue Accounts which indicate the importance attached to power development in the State having regard to the expansion proposed in the industrial and agricultural sectors. The capital outlay proposed in the Budget Estimate for 1962–63 amounts to Rs. 1,820·90 lakhs as against the corresponding provision of Rs. 1,788·70 lakhs in the Revised Estimate for 1961–62. The revenue receipts of the Board are estimated to increase from Rs. 1,736·41 lakhs in 1961–62 to Rs. 1,875.61 lakhs in 1962–63 which will also be the corresponding figures of Revenue Expenditure for these two years.

For the benefit of the new Members of the House, a compa-
3-20 p.m. rative statement showing the power development in the First and Second Five-Year Plans and that proposed under the Third Plan is furnished in Appendix I[a]. A significant feature of power development in Madras State is the formation of a well-knit Grid inter-connecting all the generating stations and covering almost all the districts of the State. The Grid has enabled the Board to operate all its power stations economically without any need for standby units. The Grid at present comprises seven hydro and two thermal stations with a total installed capacity of 571.000 K.W., numerous sub-stations and a vast network of High Tension and Low Tension lines. The highest voltage so far adopted for main transmission lines is 230 K.V. in the Kundah-Villivakkam 230 K.V. line over a distance of 300 miles.

The Third Five-Year Plan for Madras State envisages a total outlay of Rs. 100·19 crores on power schemes. The statement in Appendix II[b] gives the schemes and the plan provisions therefor. During the Third Plan period, the Madras Grid will have

[a] Vide Appendix I on pages 245–246.

[b] Vide Appendix II on page 247.

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an additional generating capacity of 560 M.W. under the State Plan as indicated below thereby increasing the total installed capacity of the Grid to 1,131,000 K.W. :—

Kundah Hydro-Electric Scheme III stage Extensions.	**245,000**	**k.w.**
Mettur Tunnel Hydro-Electric Scheme ..	**100,000**	**k.w.**
Periyar Hydro Electric Scheme II Stage Extension.	**35,000**	**k.w.**
Parambikulam Hydro-Electric Scheme.	**180,000**	**k.w.**
Total for III Plan Schemes	**560 000**	**k.w.**
Installed capacity at the end of II Plan.	**571,000**	**k.w.**
Total ..	**1,131,000**	**k.w.**

In addition, the Madras Grid can draw from the generating coracity of the Lignite Thermal Station of the Government of India at Neyveli to the extent of 226,000 K.W. Mr. Chairman, I may add that I have received information from Neyveli that their unit will come into operation from the middle of next month and that power will be supplied to the Grid from the middle of next month.

The Third Plan provides for electrification of 8,000 additional villages, hamlets and towns covering almost the entire State, construction of 8,000 miles of H.T. lines and extension of supply of power to 75,000 additional agricultural pumpsets.

Coming to our accomplishments during 1961-62, which is the first year of the Third Plan, an outlay of Rs. 17·88 crores has been made on Plan Schemes as against the original provision of Rs. 15·23 crores for that year. The target of electrifying 1,600 towns, villages and hamlets has been exceeded and our actual performance has ensured extension of supply to 1,880 additional towns, villages and hamlets bringing the total number of towns, villages and hamlets served by electricity to 12,638 as on 1st April 1962. Twenty-two thousand agricultural pumpsets were connected up during the year as against the target of connecting up of 15,000 agricultural pumpsets only. Thus the cause of increased food production is served by more than 139,200 agricultural pumpsets working on electricity. During the year, 1,400 miles H.T. lines and 3,300 miles of L.T. lines were erected bringing the total mileage of H.T. lines to 16,512 route miles and of L.T. lines to 25,386 route miles.

As regards major schemes, the execution of the Kundah I and II Stages is over except for the Upper Bhavani Dam which is expected to be completed in 1963-64. The Civil Works on the

Kundah Hydro-Electric Scheme II Stage whic is out most important project under the Third Plan are progressing satisfactorily according to schedule. Thanks to the continued Canadian assistance under the Colombo Plan to the Scheme to the extent of 22 million dollars, the machinery and equipment required for the scheme are being ordered in Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Consulting Engineers to the Government of Canada. The three Power Houses envisaged under the scheme and the additional installed capacity proposed in the two eixsting power-houses with a total additional capacity of 245,000 K.W. are expected to be commissioned before the end of the Third Plan. The transmission lines and associated sub-stations provided for under the Scheme are in various stages of progress.

The Mettur Tunnel Hydro-Electric Scheme envisages the utilization of the irrigation discharge of the Mettur Reservoir (which is not at present utilized in the existing power station), in a new power-house with an initial capacity of 100,000 K.W. The Civil Works relating to the Power House, Tunnel, etc., are well advanced and the generators and other equipment required for the scheme have already been ordered in the U.S.S.R. under Rupee payment.

Cival Works have recently been commenced on the Periyar Hydro-Electric Scheme II Stage and orders have already been placed for the fourth penstock and fourth generating unit of 35,000 K.W. to be installed under the Scheme in the Periyar Power House.

The Scheme Report relating to the Parambikulam Hydro-Electric Project which forms part of the Parambikulam-Aliyar Irrigation-*cum*-Hydro-Electric Project is at present under consideration of the Central Water and Power Commission, and the Planning Commission. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to announce that the Chief Engineer who had been to Delhi to discuss these matters with the Government of India has returned with the happy news that the Government of India have approved the plans for the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project.

Another important scheme undertaken is the installation of an additional 150,000lb/hr. boiler at the Basin Bridge Power Station with a view to augment its present generating capacity. The boiler has been ordered in Yugoslavia under Rupee payment and the necessary civil works in the Basin Bridge Power Station are alreary in progress.

The works on the masonry dam of the Sandynallah Reservoir in the Nilgiris are in an advanced stage and water is expected to be impounded in the reservoir during the current year 1962–63 itself. This will enable additional generation of power in the existing Pykara and Moyar Power Houses.

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The question of inter-linking the Power Grids of the four neighbouring States of the Southern Zone, viz., Madras, Mysore, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh has been for sometime under consideration of the Power Development Committee constituted by the Southern Zonal Council. In accordance with the scheme evolved by the Committee, the Madras Grid will be linked to Mysore by construction of a 230 K.V. line from Singarapet while the Andhra Pradesh Grid will be inter-connected to the Madras Grid by means of a 230 K.V. line from Singarapet to Andhra Border. The Kerala Grid wil be linked to the Madras Grid by means of a 230 K.V. line from Madurai to Kerala Border. A total estimate of Rs. 230·50 lakhs for construction of the required 230 K.W. lines in Madras State has already been sanctioned by the Madras State Electricity Board. Although Madras may not be in a position to spare any power to the neighbouring States in the near future, the proposed inter-State Grid will be of mutual advantage to all the States concerned in the long run during emergencies and to meet peak loads.

As the hon. Members are aware, Madras State is well-known for its intensive Rural Electrification Programme. This programme has received commendations among others from the Planning Commission and the Government of India. In furtherance of this scheme, a number of concessions have been granted to agricultural consumers although they cut into the revenues of the Board. This policy has, however, already paid dividends by way of increased food production. Rural electrification has also resulted in the establishment of a number of small scale rural industries. Power has become a vital necessity for the welfare of the rural population and there is an increasing demand for further expansion of rural electrification. In the context of rapid expansions of major and heavy industries, which are bulk consumers of electricity, it is really a problem to reconcile the demand for power from rural areas as also from urban industries. In this context, the need for the continuance of the staggering and grouping restrictions will be realised. All possible efforts are, however, being made to relax the grouping restrictions wherever possible having regard to the sub-station and transformer capacities in the areas concerned. Another welcome feature to the agricultural consumers is that the Board itself will undertake a review of revenues realised from rural extension schemes annually and permit derating of special guarantee agreed to by the consumers, if the extensions are actually found to be really remunerative on account of further additional loads in these extension schemes.

3-30 p.m.

While there has been an impressive progress in the field of power development in Madras, it has been our experience that the power demand was always ahead of the power availability. At the same time, we cannot overlook a certain weakness in the Madras Grid. Most of the generating stations in the Grid are hydro stations depending on water storages in the reservoirs which cater to irrigation needs also. Hydro power output is therefore

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mostly seasonal and is dependent on the vagaries of monsoons. This has resulted in the reduction of effective generating capacity of the Grid very much below the actual installed capacity and has been a frequent source of anxiety during the summer months. However, with the present storages in the reservoirs and the anticipated normal inflows, it is hoped to tide over this present summer without resorting to any power cut. I am glad to state that in our State no industry has so far been denied power when required by it.

A recent survey of power demand in the State indicates that the power demand in 1965–66 which is the last year of the Third Five-Year Plan will be of the order of 1,579,000 K.W. as against the then anticipated effective generating capacity of the Grid of 913,000 K.W. resulting in a deficit of 666,000 K.W. taking into account the commissioning of all the generating units proposed under the Third Plan including the expansion of the Neyveli Thermal Station. The demand takes into account the removal of all existing peak hour, staggering and grouping restrictions. We have, therefore, to be vigilant and take steps to meet the situation lest the progress of our industry and agriculture should be impeded. We may have to take up additional schemes. Preliminary investigations have indicated that two power stations with a total installed capacity of 800,000 K.W. can be established by putting up two reservoirs near Hogenakkal on the river Cauvery at an estimated cost of Rs. 58 crores. But the scheme would require the co-operation of the Government of Mysore as the sites are in the boundary between Madras and Mysore States. Let us hope that we will be able to take up the scheme even in the Third Plan itself with the co-operation of the Government of Mysore. The scheme would incidentally solve the flood problem on the river Cauvery and would also go a long way to meet the power demand in the State. However, as has been pointed out repeatdly in this House on the past occasions, the power position of the State can be put on a sound and endurable basis only when a nuclear power station is established in this State. This has been repeatedly brought home to the Government of India and the Planning Commission. It is encouraging to note that the Government of India have appointed a High Power Site Selection Committee for establishment of a nuclear power station, which is engaged in the task of selecting suitable sites in various States including Madras State. One or two sites in Madras State are being considered by the Committee. Let us hope that ultimately, it will be decided to locate a nuclear power station in Madras State itself having regard to the capacity of the Grid to absorb the additional power and the network of transmission and distribution systems already available.

The tariff rates for supply of power were last revised by the Madras State Electricity Board with effect from 1st October 1959 and uniform rates were introduced throughout the State. However High-Tension consumers in Madras Thermal area continue to

pay a fuel surcharge to meet the high cost of coal and furnace oil used in generation of power in the Basin Bridge Power Station. This additional levy is further justified on the ground that the High-Tension consumers in Madras are treated in a favoured way in times of power cut as compared to the High-Tension consumers in the Hydro areas. Now that the Neyveli Thermal Power will be shortly fed into the Grid, the Board will be looking into this aspect and will no doubt go into the question of revision of tariffs with particular reference to the need for the continuance or otherwise of the levy of fuel surcharge in the Madras Thermal area.

At present the entire generation of power sold in Madras State as also 85 per cent of distribution of power are in the hands of the Madras State Electricity Board. However, eight company electrical licensees and five local Authority Licensees distribute the power purchased from the Board. There had been some complaints in the past that the development of Licensees areas is lagging behind as compared to the development in the adjacent areas served by the Board. The Licensees have been pleading lack of capital to develop their areas. To meet the situation a lump sum provision of Rs. 200 lakhs has been provided under the Third Plan for advancing loans to the licensees to execute specific rural electrification schemes. During 1961-62, a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs has accordingly been disbursed by the Government to the Licensees to undertake specific rural electrification schemes. A provision of Rs. 25 lakhs for advancing loans to the licensees during the current year 1962-63 has been provided for in the Interim Budget for 1962-63.

The Board has been trying its best to establish good Industrial relation with their workers. Following the Madras Pay Commission's Report and the order of the Government in regard to their employees, the Board has given effect to the revised scales of pay with retrospective effect from 1st June 1960 in respect also of its employees who have opted for them. The revision generally follows the pattern of revision of scales of pay implemented by the Government. This has resulted in an additional expenditure of about Rs. 30 lakhs per annum to the Board. The Board has also given effect to the Liberalised Pension Scheme on the model of the Government scheme in respect of the staff who have opted for the Revised scales of pay. This will involve an additional expenditure of about Rs. 50,000 per annum. The Board also proposes to implement a new Contributory Provident Fund Scheme in respect of staff who normally come under the scope of the Employees Provident Fund Act. The Board is also contemplating steps to solve the housing problem of its employees to the extent its finances will allow. I am sure there will be continued cooperation and team work among the Engineers, workmen and other staff of the Board in national interests to achieve the stupendous task set by the Third Plan and that they will all rise to the occasion as they have done in the past.

With these words, Sir, I thank you and the hon. Members for giving m a patient hearing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Statement is before the House for discussion.

* SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, to understand fully the progress made by our State in regard to power development, under the Five-Year Plans, first of all, we must remember the limitations that we have got to face in the development of power in our State. Electricity is generated from one of the following primary sources available in India, namely, coal, lignite, waterfalls, uranium, thorium, oil, natural and refinery gas. We all know that Madras cannot boast of large resources of coal. A large proportion of the total workable reserves of coal estimated at 150 million thousand tons is available only in Bihar and West Bengal. A small portion is available in Assam, M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Sir, lignite deposits also are found in large quantities, about 2,000 million tons. They occur only in parts of Madras, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir. Another thing I want to bring to notice is that good coal is required for metallurgical and industrial purposes. So, it has necessitated the setting up of coal refineries. If we want thermal stations here, we shall have to bring coal from West Bengal and Bihar. Just consider how much strain it imposes on the transport system, and what will be the cost. It is no wonder that we find thermal stations in Bihar and West Bengal, because those two States have large quantities of coal. The reason why I am bringing this to the notice of this House is this. In spite of the great handicap, we have been able to achieve during the first two five-year plans much. Take, for instance, the hydro-electric projects. Even here we have not got such perennial rivers as the Ganga or the Sutlej or the other perennial rivers in the North. There is only the Cauveri. Up to Tiruchirappalli it is perennial. From Tiruchirappalli downwards it is not perennial; it is only seasonal. In Mettur, of course, we have got a big reservoir out of which we generate electricity, thanks to (Dr.) Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer's efforts. He was criticised then for throwing a large sum of money into water, so to say. I am saying all this only to show that in spite of the handicaps, we have made very rapid progress.

3-40 p.m.

Installations of large thermal units result not only in increased thermal efficiency but also in reduction of capital cost for a kilowatt of a hundred thousand capacity. Now the capital cost of 120 hundred million kilowatts is about 20 per cent cheaper than 30 million kilowatts. Therefore, the Planning Commission has recommended large units for these thermal stations instead of smaller ones. If the units are small, the efficiency of thermal units is less. Compared to caol o roil fuel or nuclear fuel hydro-electric power is cheap. We need not spend anything for water,

whereas we have to pay for coal and other things. Water is an inexhaustible source of energy, provided it is supplied perennially. But still, even with the limited resources of water-supply, we have been able to supply the demands for power to a very great extent. As the Hon. Minister Sri V. Ramaiah pointed out last time, when he was in charge of this subject, even at the end of the third five-year plan, there would be a deficit of about 420 million kilowatts. Even after getting the nuclear power and also the power from the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, still there will be a deficit. It is estimated that we will get 250 million watts from Neyveli. We require 1,400 million watts. We have at present 960 million watts.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : After the new Minister has taken charge, the deficit has increased!

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Perhaps the demand has increased both for industrial and agricultural purposes. I find the demand is going on increasing. That is the difficulty. Even if we have the atomic plant, there will be deficit. What is the amount of electricity from the Parambikulam and other Anamalai sources? I say, Sir, the Parambikulam project is a wonderful project. I myself saw it. It is one of the wonderful engineering feats. It is going to irrigate a very large number of acres. But I do not know anything about the generation of electricity from this. They are going to have two plants, one at the upper and the other at the lower end. These plants will, I am quite sure, give a large quantity of power.

Sir, as regards uranium and thorium, it is stated that thorium resources in the country are the largest in the world, and are more than uranium. But this must be clearly understood. No doubt we may have the material, but immediately we cannot get electricity. We must know how to use the material. We need the necessary technical personnel. It has been pointed out in the first two plans that even though thorium is available, unless there is the technical personnel to use this material to get electric power, nothing can be got. The construction and operation of nuclear devices for production of power, require a high degree of scientific and engineering skill. It is desirable, therefore, that the technical personnel in the country should obtain the necessary training and experience so as to undertake a large nuclear programme. Sir, I was one of those shouting here that the atomic plant should be installed in Madras State. Now I find that we should hasten slowly, and that there is no point in having machinery without the necessary technical personnel. It will take time for the men to get training.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Our men work in the atomic plants throughout the world, and our Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission was the first Chairman of the International Conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. I do not think there is any lack of technical skill in our country.

* SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : I am very glad to hear it. But this was stated so in the Planning Commission's report

Then, Sir, I understand that in the West, out of solar energy they are getting electric power. We have got much of solar energy. But how to convert it in the form of electricity? We cannot wait till other countries give out the results of their investigations. It is likely they may not. It will be their trade secret. Therefore, investigation on this should be started to find out how far it is possible and feasible to get electricity out of solar energy.

Sir, I am told that in some places in the West, wind power is used to generate electricity—not on a large scale, but on a small scale. Now we are using wind power only to lift water. That is the use to which it is put. I should like to say that we must find out whether it is possible to have wind power for generating electricity in certain isolated areas.

Sir, another thing I want to say is that we have not got perennial rivers. We have not got coal and other things. Equipment we have to get from other countries. There is the foreign exchange difficulty. There is at present one heavy electrical plant at Bhopal, and it is stated here that there will be another one in the South. I hope when this is started, we will have the necessary machinery. Not all the parts of the machinery, but at least some parts can be manufactured. In the third plan, the setting up of plants in the public sector has been provided for. A substantial portion of the equipment and spare parts must be of indigenous production. Unless the rate of progress is speeded up, we may have to wait for a long time.

Another thing that I want to say is this. I have very often heard, when there is a breakdown, that the departmental people are not able to get the parts necessary for effecting repairs. The machines perhaps were bought some years before. Just as in the case of motor-cars where they go on changing the type of cars, even so probably they change the machines in the case of electric equipment also. So, standardisation of equipment is another factor which deserves further study in the third five-year plan period. It is absolutely essential that standardisation of equipment must immediately be taken up.

In places where there are small waterfalls, even though they may last for three or four months, they install hydro plants of 10 to 100 k.w., and at a modest cost, they say. I saw certain waterfalls in some places in my recent tour with the Estimates Committee in Madurai District. We were taken to some corner where there was a waterfall. Like that there are so many waterfalls. Even in dry season you have got them. In the rainy season you have got waterfalls lasting for six or seven months. They have got to be tapped. I do not say they can be easily tapped. How far it is possible to tap these waterfalls must be investigated

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since electric power is required. In the long run, hydro electric plants up to 100 k.w. capacity will be more economical than diesel sets and relatively easy to maintain.

We have been talking of dispersal of industries in rural areas, just as we say that people must go back to the villages. Electric connection has been given and radio facility is provided. Even if all the facilities are provided, people do not go to the villages. Villagers only come to Madras. They find here that they can easily get wages by working in some factory or other. As a matter of fact, rural electrification has made very great progress. There is no doubt about it. Still we find people migrating from villages to the city. The City people are unwilling to go back to the villages in spite of all these amenities. Now, if you want to start industries in rural areas, it presupposes availability of power. There should be a close link between schemes for development of medium and small industries and the programme for generation and distribution of power. It was thought that if villages were electrified, the standard of living in the villages would go up. It was so stated in the Third Five-Year Plan drafted by the Planning Commission and also by the Hon. Minister who was in charge of Planning last year. No doubt, the standard of living has increased. They get certain amenities, comforts and conveniences. They have got electric fans. Our intention was that the majority of the people should live in the villages. I find from the financial statement that lighting of Harijan colonies is continued. It is good that it is continued. If that is done, much of the insanitary condition will disappear. That is my honest opinion. The hygienic and sanitary condition will improve to some extent. But I should like to sound a note of warning. Do not light only the Harijan colony, leaving out the non-Harijan colony. If you make lighting arrangements; do them for both. Priority must, of course, be given to the Harijan colonies. The Harijans are living in dark places. That must be recognised.

I am now coming to the Madras Power Grid. At the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, it included seven hydro stations and two thermal stations with an installed capacity of 571,700 k.ws. Coming to hydro stations, there are seven. I shall take three— Periyar, Mettur and Papanasam. They are linked with irrigation projects. Hence, the bulk of the power generated is rasonal. As a result, the effective firm capacity is less than the installed capacity. Dependable power in summer is only 60 per cent of the installed capacity. That is why we have the cut and the grouping system. So long as our supply is seasonal we have to impose cuts in summer. To overcome the seasonal imbalance, more thermal stations have to be installed to firm up the seasonal hydro-power. This is the suggestion that I wanted to make. But I find that thermal power is more costly. Hydro-electric power is very cheap. But, for some time to come, in order to avoid the cut and grouping restrictions, I would suggest

that we have more thermal stations if possible. We have now got two thermal stations, one at Madras and another at Samayanallur. One more can be thought of, so that these power cuts may be reduced to the minimum.

Of course, as I said, thermal power is very costly. If we take the Madras Grid, the cost per unit of power generated is 6.45 nP. for Madras and 7.76 nP. for Samayanallur. If we take hydro-electric power, the cost ranges from 0.43 nP. to 1.54 nP. per unit. It is very much cheaper than thermal power.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I want the House to know that some of these stations like Pykara were started thirty years ago. Therefore, at that time, the cost of installation was very small.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Now in the Third Plan, out of Rs. 290.89 crores, this State is going to spend Rs. 100.19 crores for Power alone. Now we have got two schemes—Continuing Schemes and New Schemes. I think the Kundah Project is a Continuing Scheme. Periyar is also a Continuing Scheme. Parambikulam Project comes under the New Schemes. I am glad to hear that the Government of India have approved of the Plan. Now, Sir, even after all these schemes proposed in the Third Plan are implemented, the effective generating capacity of the Grid will be only 969 M.W. as against the demand of 1,448 M.W. There will still be a gap of 470 M.W. I hope something will be done to bridge the gap.

I now come to rural electrification and agricultural development. The area of Madras State is 50,170 sq. miles, and the number of villages is 19,911. The number of towns is 295. It was thought that rural electrification would improve the economic status of the rural population by increasing food production. Nobody can deny that food production has increased. Certainly it has increased. As a matter of fact, some of my own colleagues who were teachers and who had four or five acres each went back to their villages, and installed pumpsets, and now they say that they are very happy in spite of the high cost of pumpsets, tariff and so on. They are sure of getting two harvests, if not three. In between the two harvests they grow some other thing. But some of the easy-going gentlemen in Madras do not like to go to their villages and cultivate their fields. If they do so, they will reap benefit in spite of the high cost.

I shall give some figures which are very telling. In 1947-48 the number of villages that had electricity is 1,090. The number in 1960-61 is 10,700. The number as on 1st April 1962 is 12,638. I got this information from 'The Madras Mail'. How 'The Madras Mail' got this information, I do not know. So far as pumpsets are concerned, the number in 1947-48 is about 7,555, in 1960-61, it is 1,16,000 and on 1st April 1962 it is 1,39,766. In one year there has been a sudden increase of 23,000 pumpsets.

4th May 1962] [Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan]

In regard to supply of power for agricultural purposes, it was stated last year that there had been certain relaxations in the backward areas of Ramanathapuram, Salem and other districts. It has now been stated that so long as there is shortage of power, there will be some cut in power supply. I hope that steps will be taken to see that for agricultural purposes at least regular supply of power is made. 4-00 p.m.

Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that there were eight company electrical licensees and five Local Authority Licensees distributing power purchased from the Board, that they were unable to extend rural electrification and that therefore they granted them an advance of Rs. 25 lakhs in the year 1961-62 and a similar provision has been made for the year 1962-63. The complaint against these companies is that they are only concerned with making profits by supplying power to industrial undertakings and others and are not very eager in extending electricity to rural areas. I would request the Government to look into the matter. After all, the area covered by these is very small. Why should not the Government take over these concerns also? This is only a suggestion that I am making.

I have already stated, Sir, that there must be standardization of equipment. Another complaint I heard was that the equipment in the sub-stations have not yet been modernised. The capacities of the transmission lines and the capacities of the transformers in a number of station have to be increased.

Next I shall refer to the Inspectorate. After the formation of the Electricity Board, it is good we create an independent Electricity Inspectorate.

Coming next to accidents, Sir, we see every day in the newspapers some news or other about accidents caused by electricity. The number of accidents during 1958-59 in the licensee and non-licensed areas were 65 and casualties 76. Probably in certain accidents the number of persons involved might have been more than one and that is why the number of accidents is 65 and casualties 76. In the areas served by the Electricity Board the number of accidents was 306 and casualties 330 and the casualties that proved fatal were 177. I would request the Government to look into this matter and see how far these accidents could be prevented. I know some of the labourers are ignorant and are not aware of the precautions they should take. Everybody calls himself a licensed workman and takes up work. Before these people are allowed to take up such work, they should be made to undergo a severe test and certificates should be issued to them regarding their competency to undertake such work with safety.

Sir, the appeal made by the Hon. Minister to the industrialists regarding tariff rates, I am afraid, is going to fall flat on them. Recently, Sir, I found that the charge was Rs. 580 for an industry which wanted to be in a thermal station area. If this very same industry were to be started in a hydro area, the charge would be only Rs. 200.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : May I know what that industry is?

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : I do not remember it just now. I shall give the information to the Hon. Minister later. I do not know why there should be this difference in rates. The very purpose of having the grid is to equalise the rates as far as possible. I admit there is justification for the higher rates in respect of thermal stations because the cost of generation of power is comparatively higher there than in the case of hydro schemes. Coal is used in thermal stations and the cost of coal is high. But when the Government are thinking of having this grid, is a surcharge on fuel necessary? Of course, there is a hint given in the statement that this would be revised later on. I hope when the power position eases, and when there is sufficiency of power supply, this will be taken into consideration. Why I am anxious about this is that we are all eager that more and more industries should come up in this State. There are a number of facilities, for instance, in Madras. That is why people want to start industries here. These facilities are not available in the rural areas. Modern industries entirely depend on power. There is no doubt about it. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to consider this aspect of the matter.

Sir. I now come to the Members on the State Electricity Board. When my Friend Sri Raza Khan was here, he used always to press for appointing non-official members on the Board. Of course, there is the consultative committee. On that committee, you have non-official members. May I suggest that even in the State Electricity Board there should be one or two non-official Members? The reason is this. The expenditure of the State Electricity Board runs to so many crores of rupees. The Government are going to take over the electricity undertakings also. I plead for the appointment of non-official members on the Board not because I suspect or doubt the *bona fides* of the official members on the Board or their action. I know they are all men of integrity and administrative ability. But if there are non-official members on the Board. it will inspire confidence among the people. We find every day the board calling for tenders for supply of so many things. If the non-officials are associated, it will be good. I do not mean to suggest what they have been doing was not correct. This is only a suggestion that I am making. Please do not be under the impression that I am casting an aspersion on the integrity of the members of the Board when I make this suggestion.

One thing I would like very very much to impress on the Hon. Minister is this. The accounts section should be independent of the Engineering sections. It is very important that it should be independent.

Sir, the Hon. Minister himself has stated that there is continued co-operation and team work among the Engineers, workmen and other staff of the Board. Therefore, there is no need for me to say anything about the staff of the Board, or the employees of the Board. The Hon. Minister has also stated that the pay scales recommended by the Pay Commission have been implemented in respect of the employees of the Board. That being so, I do not know why very often they say that they would go on token strike and all that. One of the grievances is that quite a number of them who have put in five or six years' service are still kept on a temporary basis. May I request the Hon. Minister to look into this and see why they are kept on a temporary basis? It is a good thing that the Government have extended the liberalised pension scheme to the employees of the Board also. My only request to the Government is that these employees should be placed on a par with the Non-gazetted officers. They will then have no grievance.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Their grievance is that they are placed on a par with the Government servants. (Laughter)

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN. Is it then they want something more because there is a surplus? That is always the difficulty. Whenever there is a surplus, they think they alone are entitled to the surplus. The P & T employees think the surpluses should go to them. The railway employees think that surpluses should go to them. They should realise who it is that contribute to these surpluses. If these employees should look at it from that point of view, i.e., of getting all the surpluses, then all will suffer. Nobody will be happy. There is no doubt about it. What we should aim at is that persons of comparable and similar qualifications should get the same emoluments. If there are special circumstances, they may be granted allowances. This is my personal view, (The Hon. Sri R. Venkataraman : Thank you very much.) and I am prepared to say it, because I do not want any one class of people should be treated favourably or partially while other sections of people suffer. 4-10 p.m.

The Hon. Minister has stated in his speech, ' The Board is also contemplating steps to solve the housing problem of its employees to the extent its finances will allow '. Let the Board first start with the housing programme in the rural areas, where there are sub-stations and thermal plants. I know in some places housing is provided, but not in all places. Because the workers are transferred from place to place, it is very necessary that they should be provided with houses. Sir, I should like to mention two more

points. One is that we have been asking for street-lighting in Alandur. We have got after some months, thirty cement posts. Still some ten more posts are required. They are not able to get them. I do not blame the Assistant Engineer or the employees. They are trying their best to get posts, but cement posts are not available. Wooden posts also are not available. It is on account of these that rural electrification in many areas is getting delayed.

The other thing relates to the agriculturists. No doubt most of them are satisfied. But some have this grievance. When everything is ready, and the pumpset also is ready, connection is not given. It takes eight to ten months to get connection. May I request the Hon. Minister to look into this and see why there is so much delay? The very reason why the agriculturists want the pumpsets is to cultivate their lands, and this is frustrated by undue delay in giving connection.

* SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்றைக்கு இந்த மின்சார போர்டு பொதுவாக தனது வருமானத்தை அதிகப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளத்தான் ஆசைப் படுகின்றதே தவிர, விவசாயிகளுடைய நன்மையைப் பற்றிக் கொஞ்சமும் நினைப்பது இல்லை. கரண்டு சார்ஜ் வருஷா வருஷம் ஏறிக்கொண்டே போகின்றது. போன வருஷம் 100 ரூபாய் கட்டினால், அதே கரண்டுக்கு இந்த வருஷம் 160 ரூபாய் கட்ட வேண்டியிருக்கின்றது. முன்பு எல்லாம் 9 தம்பிடி. இப்போது ஏழு நயா பைசா சார்ஜ். இது இப்படி விலை ஏறுகிறது என்றால், உணவுப் பொருள் விலை ஏறுகின்றது. கரண்டுதான் இப்போது விவசாயத்துக்கு ரொம்பத் தேவையாக இருக்கின்றது. ஆனால் இப்போது உள்ள கரண்டு சார்ஜினால் பயிர் செய்யும் விவசாயிகளுக்கு ரொம்ப லாபம் இல்லை. தோப் நஞ்செய்ப் பயிர் இடுகின்றவர்களுக்குத்தான் லாபம். ஆகவே இந்த கரண்டு சார்ஜ் குறைவதற்கு ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவேண்டும்.

இந்த கனெக்ஷன் கொடுப்பதில் ஏகப்பட்ட கோளாறு இருக்கின்றது. ஆனால் இதைப் பற்றி போர்டைக் குறை சொல்லவில்லை. அதன்பேரிலே தப்பு இல்லை. கொஞ்சம் நிர்வாகத்தில் ஊழல் இருந்தாலும், முக்கியமாக, தேவையான சாமான்கள் இருப்பது இல்லை. இதனால் கனெக்ஷன் கொடுக்கிறதில் தாமதம் ஏற்படுகின்றது. உடனுக்குடன் கனெக்ஷன் கொடுத்தால், அதனால் போர்டுக்கு லாபம்தான்.

இன்றும் இந்தக் கீழ்த்தரத்தில் லைன்மென் போன்றவர்கள் தொல்லை கொஞ்சம் அதிகம்தான். Fuse போய்விட்டது என்றால், மூன்று நாள் ஆகின்றது போடுவதற்கு. போய்க் கேட்டால், அந்த ஆள் அகப்படுவது இல்லை. நம்மைப்போல் இருப்பவர்களுக்குத்தான் அகப்படுவது இல்லை. அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டியவர்களுக்கு அகப்படுகின்றார்கள். பெரிய நகரங்களில் இந்தமாதிரிக் கஷ்டம் எல்லாம் இல்லை. பொதுவாக

கிராமங்களில்தான் இந்தமாதிரித் தொல்லேகள் எல்லாம். அப்படிப் பட்டவர்கள் பேரிலே மேலே இருக்கும் அதிகாரிகள் தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவேண்டும். நாங்களும் எவ்வளவோ report பண்ணுகின்ருேம். ஆனுல் சரிவர நடக்கின்றது இல்லே. ஆள் மாற்றிப்போட்டாலும் திரும்ப அவனும் அப்படித்தான் செய் கின்ருன்.

போர்டு சரியாகத்தான் வேலே செய்கின்றது. ஏராளமான பணத்தைச் செலவழிக்கிறது. ஆனுல் பலன் குறைவுதான். Scheme போடுகின்ருர்கள். ஆனுல் current —திட்டம் எந்த அளவுக்கு விருத்தி ஆயிற்ருே அந்த அளவுக்கு current மின் சாரம் விருத்தி ஆகவில்லே. விவசாயத்தைப் பொறுத்தவரையில் 24 மணி நேரத்துக்கு 10 மணி நேரம்தான் மின்சாரம் கிடைக் கின்றது. மற்ற இடங்களுக்கு ஓயாமல் கிடைக்கின்றது. இந்த இடத்தில் கரெண்டு நிற்கின்றதா? இங்கே என்னத்திற்கு இவ்வளவு fan சமுத்திரக்கரை காற்று வீசுகிறது. அங்கே நிலம் காய்கிறது தண்ணீர் இல்லாமல். கேட்டால் current இல்லே. ஆனுல் town-ல் சினிமாவுக்கும் அதற்கும் இதற்கும் மின்சாரம் கிடைக் கிறது. விவசாயம் எப்படி விருத்தியடையும்? ஆகவே விவசாயி களுக்கு உங்களுடைய திட்டத்தில் priority கொடுக்க வேண்டும். அது அவசியம். connection வாங்குவது என்பது ரொம்ப சாதாரணமானது இல்லே. விவசாயத்துக்கு connection கொடுப்பது என்ருல்தான் இவ்வளவு கஷ்டம். ஆனுல் ஆடம்பரக் காரியத்துக்கு என்று கேட்டால் சுலபமாகக் கிடைத்து விடுகின்றது. ஆகவே போர்டானது விவசாயத்துக்கு வேண்டிய மின்சாரம் கிடைப்பதற்கு ஆவன செய்யவேண்டும் என்று வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

(Deputy Chairman in the Chair.)

போர்டு கடன் வாங்கி இருக்கின்றது. ஆறு மாதம் ஆயிற்று. Bond வரவில்லே. வட்டி வந்துவிட்டது. ஆறுமாதமாக பாண்டு நம் கைக்கு வரவில்லே. இப்போதுதான் பாண்டு வந்திருக்கின்றது என்று State Bank-ல் சொன்னுர்கள். ஏன் இதை ஆட்சேபிக் கிறேன் என்ருல், நாங்கள் எல்லாம் பிஸினெஸ்மென். வியாபாரிகள். ஒரு ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் கடன் கேட்டீர்கள். கொடுத்தோம் தாட்சண்யத்துக்கு. சாதாரணமாக அந்த பாண்டு சீக்கிரம் கைக்கு வந்துவிட்டால் அதை வைத்து இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் கடன் வாங்கி வியாபாரத்தில் போட்டு புரட்டிக்கொள்ளுவோம். ஆறு மாதம் கழித்து பாண்டு எங்கள் கைக்கு வந்தால், அதனுல் எங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு நஷ்டம்? எவ்வளவு கஷ்டம்? கவர்ன் மெண்டு பாண்டு மாதிரி மறு நாள் எங்கள் கைக்கு பாண்டு வரவேண்டும். ஆறு மாதம் கழித்து வந்தால் ஏகப்பட்ட நஷ்டம் எங்களுக்கு. ஆகவே இதையெல்லாம் நன்கு கவனித்து இனியாவது வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

4·20 p.m. **SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIAR :** தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஒரு விளக்கம் கேட்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். Depreciation Reserve General Reserve என்று இரண்டு பகுதிகளாகப் பிரித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதில் ஏற்கனவே எடுத்து செலவழித்தது போக, மீதம் மூலதனச் செலவுக்காக கடன் வாங்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ?

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : தலைவர் அவர்களே, மின்சார உற்பத்திக்காக அதிகமான தொகை ஒதுக்கி, நல்லபடி திட்டம் போடுகிறார்கள். ஹைட்ரோ மின்சார உற்பத்தி, அணுசக்தி மின்சார உற்பத்தி என்று இயற்கையோடு போராடிக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். நம்முடைய மக்களும் "சொல்லுதல் யார்க்கும் எளிய அரியவாஞ் சொல்லிய வண்ணஞ் செயல்" என்ற வள்ளுவர் வாக்கை உணர்ந்து, செயல் முறையில் நல்லது செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால் ஒத்துழைப்புத் தருகிறார்கள். பார்க்கப் போனால், வெளியில் கடன் வாங்காமல் மின்சார போர்டு இருக்கமுடியாது. அப்படிப்பட்ட நிலையில் பொதுமக்கள் ஐந்து சதவிகிதம், ஆறு சதவிகிதம் வட்டிக்கு மின்சார போர்டுக்குக் கடன் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். நமக்குக் கிடைத்திருக்கிற நல்ல தலைவர்கள் அதைக் கொண்டு, நல்ல திட்டங்களைத் தீட்டி நல்ல முயற்சிகளைச் செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்களையும் மீறி சில குறைகள் ஏற்படுகின்றன என்றால், வேலை செய்கிறவர்கள் மீது சரியான கண்காணிப்பு இல்லாததுதான் காரணம். மின்சார விபத்துக்கு உள்ளாகிய பல் பணியாளர்கள் இறந்துவிடுகிறார்கள் என்றால், அதற்கு யார் பொறுப்பு? பணியாளர்களுக்கு gloves (கையணி) கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் ; அவற்றை உபயோகித்து எச்சரிக்கையுடன் இருந்தால், விபத்துக்கள் அவர்களுக்கு ஏற்படாது. முன்னெச்சரிக்கை விதிகளை கடைபிடிக்காமல் இருந்தால், சாகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் நான் சொல்ல விரும்புவது என்னவென்றால், பெரிய அதிகாரிகளும், மற்ற அதிகாரிகளும், வேலை சரியாக நடக்கிறதா என்று அவ்வப்போது கண்காணிக்கவேண்டும். இருக்கிற ஜூனியர் என்ஜினியர்களும், சீனியர் என்ஜினியர்களும் கண்காணிப்புச் செய்து, குறித்த நேரத்தில் குறித்த வேலை நடைபெறுகிறதா என்று பார்க்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

நமது தென்னாட்டில், மேட்டுக்குப்பத்தில் வள்ளலார் இராமலிங்க அடிகள் வாழ்ந்த அந்த இடத்திற்கு மின்சாரத்தை விஸ்தரிக்க வேண்டுமென்று நாங்களும் ஆண்டாண்டுகளாகக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டுவருகிறோம். எங்கெங்கோ குப்பைக் காடுகளுக்கு எல்லாம் மினசார விளக்குகள் போடுகிறார்கள். தென்னாட்டுக்குக் கண்ணாக இருக்கின்ற, சமரச சுத்த சன்மார்க்க நேசியாளர் இராமலிங்க அடிகளார் ஏற்றி வைத்த திரு விளக்கு எரிகிற அந்த இடத்திற்காவது நல்லெண்ணத்தோடு மின்சார விளக்குகள் போட்டிருக்கிறார்களா என்றால், நானும் சொல்லிச் சொல்லிப் பார்த்தேன், செய்கிறேன் செய்கிறேன் என்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் காலம் கடத்திக்கொண்டுவருகிறார்கள். இங்கே இதை ஏன் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றால், ஒவ்வொரு இடத்திலும் வேலை

சரியாக நடக்கிறதா என்று கண்காணிக்கவேண்டும். சீக்கிரமே மேட்டுக்குப்பத்திற்கு மின்சார விளக்குகள் போடவேண்டு மென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

அடுத்தபடியாக, நான் சொல்ல விரும்புவது, உணவு உற்பத்திக் காக, விவசாயத்திற்காக குறைந்த பட்சம் (minimum) இவ் வளவு மின்சாரம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று நிர்ணயிக்க வேண்டும். பம்பு செட்டுகளைப் போட்டுவிட்டு, மின்சார சப்ளை கொடுக்காமல், இரவு 10 மணிக்கு மேல் ஓட்டு என்றால், யார் ஓட்டு வார்கள்? ஆகையால் விவசாயத்திற்காக, ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட குறைந்தபட்ச அளவு 30 சதவிகிதம், 40 சதவிகிதம் என்று ஒரு அளவை நிர்ணயித்து, மின்சாரம் வழங்கினால்தான் உணவு உற்பத்தி பெருகும் என்று குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன்.

மேலும் மின்சாரத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குச் சரியான சம்பளம் கொடுக்கவில்லை என்றார்கள். அந்தக் குறை முதலில் இருந்தது. இப்போது Pay Commission- இன் சிபார்சுகள் மின்சாரத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் விஸ்தரிக்கப்பட்டு அமுல் நடத்தப் படுகிறது என்று குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நான் ஒரு யோசனை யைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். மின்சார இலாக்காவில் வேலை செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு ஏன் மின்சாரம் இலவசமாகக் கொடுக்கக் கூடாது? இலவசமாகக் கொடுக்காததால், வேறு பல செலவு அதிகமாகப் போகிறது. இலவசமாகக் கொடுத்தால், ஊழியர் களுக்குத் திருப்தி ஏற்பட்டு நாம் அதனால் அதிக லாபம் சம்பா திக்க முடியும். இதைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

மின்சாரத் திட்டங்களுக்காக நாம் எவ்வளவோ சாமான்கள் வாங்கிக் கொண்டு வருகிறோம். அவற்றில் மீதியாகின்ற சாமான் களை surplus stock- ஐக் காலா காலத்தில் private company களுக்கு நல்லபடியாகப் பங்கிட்டுக் கொடுத்து, சாமான்கள் வீண் போகாமல் இருக்கும்படியாய் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு, என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக் கொள்ளு கிறேன்.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I should like to confine myself briefly to the aspects of distribution and consumption of electricity. No doubt, we are expanding with regard to the requirements of electricity in our State. But even according to the statement of the Government, there are yet some thousands of villages which have to be supplied electricity. I should like to know how exactly the Board fixes the priority with regard to the needs of the villages. Whether it be the Board's area or licensee's area, how they fix this priority may be made known to the Members of this House. Villages with decent population and with big temples attracting large crowds for festivals must have the top priority. That is my humble opinion.

Sir, we say always that electricity is cheap. But considering our State, it has become dearer and dearer to us. There were days when in Madras we were supplied electricity at 22 nP. or even less. The present rate is 29 nP. There is a hint here that the Government may consider the revision of rates, especially with regard to the abolition of the fuel surcharge for power from thermal areas. But what about the domestic consumers? Will it not be better—though days are not for attracting people to electricity—in a Welfare State to see that electricity is supplied at a lower rate? There were lower tariffs in Madras. What does the Board actually do to see that the rates are brought to the normal ones which we had a few years before? Sir, ours is a tropical country. Could they not at least consider a reduced rate for consumption of electricity over a certain number of units throughout the year or at least during the months of summer, say, March, April and May? Can they not consider a 25 per cent cut in rates, not a cut in electricity? (perhaps this is the season when the Government just say, 'You may have a cut in electricity during these m nths' What I want is not a cut in electricity, but a cut in charges for consumption of electricity. This will go a long way just to alleviate the suffering of the people, who do want to have fans in summer, and who cannot afford to pay for electricity these high rates.

Then, Sir, with regard to the statement that electricity is our servant, I always disagree. It is our master—of course one of the elements or an aspect of one of the elements. The hon. Member Sri Srinivasavaradan was able to quote figures in regard to the casualties, fatal casualties, and so on in the Board's area or in the licensee's area. Now, does the Board have any proposal to see

4-30 p.m. that overhead wires are avoided as far as possible and underground cables are installed? Recently we had a report in the newspapers that the temple car in Kumbakonam had an accident on account of overhead wires. Is it not better that in all the cases of wiring hereafter underground cable system is enforced instead of the overhead wiring system?

With regard to the materials that are made available in the shops and which electricians use, has the Board any control over the quality of these materials? We do have accidents on account of inefficient switches, leaky wires, plugs and so on. Does the Board have any control over these materials? On account of the fact that no person can enjoy the conveniences of electricity without a licence, is it a great difficulty for the Board to enforce a rule that only standard material should be used for wiring and so on? I used to get notices in respect of my house that the wiring should be renewed every five years. Does the Board see that re-wiring is done every five years? That will minimise accidents to a great extent. Does the Board compel the owners to do that? Of course, the cost should be nominal.

We find risks in the case of workmen. Has the Board sufficient protective materials to give to the thousands of labourers the necessary safeguarding apparatus to be used during their work? Last year we had the pitiable accident of two workmen working simultaneously falling down dead. Even if they have got the materials, do the immediate superiors see that they take the materials and use them? Would it not be better to see that rules are framed in such a way that the immediate superior is responsible to see that these workmen take the precautionary apparatus and use it during their work?

Then I have seen transformers. Ten or fifteen years ago transformers used to be covered throughout. Now it is not thought wise to cover the transformers from the ground onwards to the top. Would it not be better to cover it at such places as are considered risky? A number of crows sit on these transformers especially in those places which are risky and they fall down dead. In front of my house it is happening. Can we not avoid it? At least as a matter of pity for these crows in this land of Ahimsa, can we not have the transformers covered? Some eighteen months ago a mad man climbed up the transformer in front of my house and pulled out the strong wires. There was something like a shot and the whole colony on the Lloyds Road was shaken to its foundations. We saw a man handling the apparatus, which nobody could handle. It was a very risky apparatus. Is it not possible to cover the transformer at least in places which are risky?

In several places in Madras City, barring the Beach and the Mount Road perhaps, there are roads where we do not have sufficient lighting. What can we account them to? Is it want of power? Is it due to some adjustment in the load or some such thing? Can we not use, instead of fluorescent bulbs the mercury lights which were in vogue some years before at least in places where roads join? Do we not contribute at least to some extent to these road accidents There are some big roads where we do not have sufficient light. We cannot, of course, consider the question of having more lights there in these days when we are in scarcity of materials. But can we not have more powerful bulbs, especially mercury lights, in street corners where lanes deviate from the roads?

These are some of the points which the Board can examine. The most important point which I would like to commend to the Board is to see that electricity is supplied in the City to the domestic consumers at a cheap rate, at least at the rate at which we were all paying some three or four years before.

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM : Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is stated in the report that at the end of the Third Plan, we will be having a good amount of electricity at our command. Great development is taking place in every district both in industry and

in agriculture. First of all, we must consider whether the electricity is supplied to agriculturists to meet their full requirements. When the Select Committee on the Co-operative Societies Bill went to several places, they witnessed several things. We expected that the Government would look into the recommendations made by the Select Committee. But I have got my own doubt whether the Government have really looked into them. We went to several places where co-operative farming was being done. The members of the co-operative farming society complained to us that it was very difficult to get electric connection. They went to the extent of saying that they applied for electric connection some months before and they had not got it for several months, whereas their neighbour who had nothing to do with co-operative farming and who had applied for electric connection a few months later had got it. We must consider the reasons for such a state of affairs. It has been said that it is all due to administrative delay. The departmental persons in charge of co-operation, it is said, do not take enough care to see that delay is minimised.

The other thing they were telling us was that there was a good amount of corruption in giving electric connection. If we go into the working of the department, we will find that one Supervisor has got to look after 25 transformers. Transformers are not in one row. They are kept in different places, at least about a mile apart from each other. Each transformer has got to contribute to hundreds of pumpsets. If anything wrong happens to one pumpset, the Supervisor has got to go all the way by cycle only to remedy the defect. If at the same time something happens to another transforment at another place, he has got to go around It will not be humanly possible for any Supervisor to go around like that. Hence it leads to the supervisor receiving out of necessity some paltry sum from some contributors and he goes on with his work. But this necessity becomes in course of time a mamool, and only when the mamool is given, we get the work done quickly. When mamool comes to a big figure, it becomes corruption. Supervisors are overworked. They work for hours together and their scale of pay is low. Hence, it is not fair to find fault with them. But it does not mean that I am encouraging corruption. The Government should see how such kind of thing could be stopped. It can be stopped only when all facilities are given to the Supervisors and their pay scale is raised. If the number of supervisors is not increased, this kind of thing would definitely go on. Each supervisor is expected to look after only 25 transformers, but on actual enquiry one would find that they are looking after 35 and more transformers. I happened to meet the chief man in charge of these supervisors and asked him why when they were expected to look after only 25 transformers, they were made to look after 35. He explained that though the rule was there that they should be in charge of only 25 transformers, they were

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actually in charge of 35 transformers. I would request the Hon. Minister to look into this and see whether it would be possible for them to efficiently discharge their duties if they were put in charge of 35 transformers. They have got to go only on cycle to distant places and look after the 25 transformers. Unless the number in charge of each supervisor is reduced and they are given some conveyance, it will cause a good amount of difficulty to the agriculturists. At the time they require power, they do not get the power because there is some breakdown and the supervisor is not able to attend to it in time.

There are not enough number of supervisors to look after these transformers. It is because their scales of pay are not attractive The existing scales of pay should be increased. Only yesterday I was told that the revised scales of pay had not been implemented. But I was happy to hear from the Hon. Minister that it had already been implemented. Probably the orders have gone to the Chief Engineer and they have not reached the district officers at electric speed but they are moving at the bullock cart speed. I hope the revised rates will be given effect to early.

Then, Sir, the question of providing housing facilities to these supervisors should be taken note of. It is absolutely no use starting the provision of this amenity from the top rank people. It is the supervisors who should first be provided with housing facilities and also some sort of conveyance to discharge their supervisory work efficiently and properly and in time. I would request the Government to assess the work that could be turned out by each supervisor and then fix the number of transformers that each can take charge of. I feel that a supervisor should be made to be in charge of more than 10 or 12 transformers.

Sir, regarding the prospects for promotion for the supervisors, what I heard was they get their promotions in time. But the promotions stop with the Assistant Engineer's Cadre. After that there is no scope for promotion at all. They stagnate there. But in the Public Works Department and in Highways they go higher up and the promotions are quicker also. It might be argued that the Public Works Department and the Highways Department are different and they cannot be compared to the Electricity Board. Though I might agree with this argument to a certain extent, I would like to point out what happens in the other States. With the starting of every new scheme they have additional posts of superintending engineers and divisional engineers to look after the new schemes but in our State such things are curbed. I do not know where the fault is. Sir, the Chief Engineer who is there for several years and who has got several years' extension of service must be in a position to create more posts and he must also be in a position by now to have created his own successor. It looks

as if he is given extension every year because he has not been able to create his own successor. I would earnestly plead with the Government to create more posts in the higher cadres such as superintending engineers and divisional engineers as they do in other States with the starting of new schemes and promote the existing Assistant Engineers to those posts. Otherwise there won't be any incentive for the Assistant Engineer to do efficient and proper work. In our State for example people who have put in 10 or 15 years of service still continue to be Assistant Engineers whereas in other States they are Superintending Engineers or Divisional Officers. We know perfectly well that our engineers are more efficient compared to the engineers in the whole of India and we would not be justified in boasting that we have people who do better work on lesser pay. The Government should come forward to give our men more chances and more incentives by creating more posts. In this connection, I would like to refer to one thing. I understand that the Central Government have an idea to create an all India service of Engineers. If that were to be given effect to, I am sorry to say, it is only our engineers in the Madras State who would suffer. The men whom we are pleased to describe as the best among the engineers in the whole of India, about whose hard work and efficiency we say so much, it is they who would suffer a good lot if that all India Service of Engineers were to be brought into effect. For instance, I may remind you about what happened when the insurance companies were nationalised. There were some companies which gave their employees lesser pay than the others. When the insurance companies were nationalised, what happened was, the pay of these employees was fixed not with reference to the number of years of service put in by them but on the basis of the pay drawn by them at the time of nationalization at the stations they held in the company. The result was many suffered a lot and had to remain content with the lower pay while others from other companies with fewer years of service were put on a higher scale of pay. In the same way if the Government of India enforced the All India Service of Engineers, our engineers in Madras State will suffer a lot because our engineers even though they have put in 10 to 15 years of service continue to be only Assistant Engineers whereas in other States engineers with less than 10 years' service have already become superintending engineers or divisional engineers with higher scales of pay. These persons who are efficient, true and loyal to us and from whom we are extracting the maximum work with minimum pay will suffer a good deal in the event of the All India cadre coming into force. I would therefore request the Government to see that if the all India cadre of engineers were to be introduced our engineers do not suffer in the least. To this end they should create more posts and if this could not be dnoe, the pay should be increased and the engineers put on proper status.

Sir, I am of the view that the industries must be charged more because they have good turnover and make a lot of pronts. No industry would grudge to pay more for electricity. But I would plead that the agriculturists should be given relief. They are asked to pay the minimum guarantee of Rs. 50 per horse power irrespective of the fact whether the pumpset works or not, whether there is water or not in the well. I say, some concession should be given to the agriculturists in the dry areas and at times when there is no water in the well. They should also be permitted to pay the minimum guarantee spread over a period of 20 yeras instead of in ten years. If the agriculturists are given power in time and the relief and concession in time, I am sure production would increase.

Sir, electricity has come to stay. We want electricity for everything. That being the case, we must see that more power is produced in our State. Of late we find in several places the light goes off even without any sort of notice. I do not know why it so happens. And again it takes a long time to get the light back. It has become a day-to-day affair in most of the places. I can understand if there is failure of supply during heavy rains or thunder showers. But even at the time when there is no rain and no thunder, we find the failure of electricity. It occurs in the same day four or five times. This causes very great difficulty not only to industries but to professional people like me. When doctors are engaged in operation work, the lights go off suddenly. I have found it difficult to get on with the operation. People in cinema theatres, when lights go off, do not know what to do. Leave alone entertainments in cinema theatres. But in serious cases like operation, if lights fail, very great difficulty is caused to the doctor. In the case of industries also, there will be very great difficulty if power supply stops even for a few hours. The Government must find out the reasons for the frequent failure of electric supply. The Government must remedy the failure of supply as quickly as possible. Otherwise, the people will be put to good amount of difficulties. When once electricity fails, they must think of giving permanent relief to see that such kind of failures do not take place at all. 4-50 p.m.

* SRI M. RAJAH IYER : Sir, the Hon. Minister deserves our congratulations on saying that good industrial relations are sought to be established between the Board and the workers. It is well that the Hon. Minister made it clear that all the facilities to which the non-gazetted officers are entitled are thrown open to the workers of the Madras State Electricity Board too. We, in this House, should not do anything to encourage more extravagant demands on the part of the various sections of the public service. I have a personal request to prefer in this connection. We know that the educational facilities thrown open to the non-gazetted

officers are year after year renewed to the members of the State Electricity Board. I do not very much see the point behind keeping them in suspense at the beginning of the year. It is more a problem for the administrators than the servants themselves. If the facilities that are open to the non-gazetted officers are open to the workers of the State Electricity Board too, I think most unambiguously it could be categorically stated so, so that there may be no suspense about it.

There is mention about the pension scheme, the revised pay scales, and the Provident Fund Act. I am sure the Hon. Minister would implement the triple-benefit scheme and introduce compulsory life insurance too for the workers.

Sir, while I find that cent per cent generation of power is in our hands, 85 per cent of the distribution only is in our hands and the balance of 15 per cent vests with the licensees and local authorities. I hope it is the accredited policy of the Government to see to it that the ultimate objective is that hundred per cent distribution is in our hands. If that were the case, we should certainly like to see some indication of that objective being given in the budget that is presented to us.

It is well that a concession is shown to agriculturists, though it is making a cut into the revenues of the State Electricity Board. In this connection I would like to make a plea on behalf of the educational institutions.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

The cut that would be made by electricity being extended at concessional rates to educational institutions may not be considerable. It cannot be much, but it would be symbolic that education is none the less important than food production. In these days, teaching is not mere talking and chalking. We have to use electricity. Progressive education requires means like audiovisual education, and therefore, we would certainly like the Hon. Minister to come forward with an announcement that for educational purposes, there would be a little cut in the rates—a symbolic cut.

Lastly, Sir, my head is full of some misgivings, which I would like to place before you. Strictly speaking, it may not pertain to electricity. I come from a place, which is in the eastern end of the Ramanathapuram District. The eastern part is very sandy, and right at the eastern tip, there is the Mandapam Camp. It has got its own electricity generating unit. It is the property of the Ceylon Government. We took for granted that after a few months' time the entire camp would come to us. Maybe it would go to the Government of India. Strictly speaking, what I

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say might be brushed aside on grounds of propriety or as something relating to the relationship between the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon. But, as I was making my journey last night, my fellow companion happened to be a high Government Officer from Ceylon. He told me that the Ceylon Government in a gazette notification had called for tenders to dismantle the whole thing at Mandapam Camp. If all the equipment, the facilities, the buildings, and the amenities are to be dismantled, it would almost amount to an act of vandalism. I was telling my fellow companon that it looked like the scorched policy which the Portuguese threatened to adopt in Goa. Particularly I am anxious that the entire camp should come to us. I know that it is valuable property particularly in the context of the Sethusamudram scheme that is envisaged. The property there may go up in value. Private enterprise and financiers are prepared to invest money and buy the property there at this juncture. So, I alert the Madras Government that the whole property should be bought as State property. There are plenty of buildings that can house many of our offices. Our electricity generating unit is there. It is a small unit. It might not add considerably to the grid of the Madras State Electricity Board. But, on this occasion I may be permitted to point out that the Mandapam Camp with all its appurtenances and buildings must in the near future become the property of the Madras Government.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow.

The House then adjourned.

IV.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* 73. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 207, Local Administration, dated 28th January 1962, relating to location of headquarters at Keerapalayam and change of name of 'Orathur' Panchayat Union as 'Keerapalayam'.*

* 74. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 534, Rural Development and Local Administration, dated 9th March 1962, regarding amendment to the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958.*

* 75. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 186, Home, dated 11th January 1962, regarding cancellation of the Madras Hemp Drugs Licensing Rules, 1953, and the issue of Rules for the issue and transport of ganja and bhang stored in the State Forensic Science Laboratory, Madras.*